

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 140795

44

ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 NEA-10 /078 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 140795

E.O.11651: GDS

TAGS: UNSC, PFOR

SUBJECT: SC DEBATE ON MIDDLE EAST

FOR AMBASSADOR SCALI

REF: USUN 2582, STATE 133757

1. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR YOU TO HAVE PRELIMINARY AND EXPLORATORY DISCUSSION AS SOON AS FEASIBLE WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ZAYYAT TO SOUND HIM OUT AND GET ACROSS DIRECTLY AND AUTHORITATIVELY USG VIEWS BELOW.

2. YOU SHOULD TELL ZAYYAT THAT WE CONSIDER ANNOUNCED SYG VISIT TO AREA A POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT; WE DON'T THINK ANYTHING SHOULD BE PERMITTED TO RISK PREJUDICING PROSPECTS OF THAT VISIT; AND WE BELIEVE ANYTHING THAT COULD INHIBIT FACT OR APPEARANCE OF SYG'S FREEDOM OF ACTION IN THIS REGARD SHOULD BE AVOIDED. ACCORDINGLY, WE CONCLUDE IT IN BEST INTERESTS OF ALL CONCERNED IF SC DEBATE ON ME WERE TO BE SUSPENDED AND ANY DECISION TO RECONVENE WERE TO BE MADE ONLY IN LIGHT OF RESULTS OF SYG'S VISIT.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 140795

3. YOU SHOULD ADD THAT IN ANY EVENT, AS AMBASSADOR BENNETT MADE CLEAR TO AMBASSADOR MEGUID, THE US IS UNPREPARED TO GO BEYOND SIMPLE REAFFIRMATION OF RESOLUTION 242 AND WILL

OPPOSE ANY CONSENSUS STATEMENT OR RESOLUTION WHICH SEEKS TO CHANGE, ELABORATE, OR OTHERWISE UPSET DELICATE BALANCE OF RESOLUTION 242. IF ZAYYAT INQUIRES WHETHER WE WOULD NOT SUPPORT AN APPROPRIATE SC CONSENSUS STATEMENT OR RESOLUTION, YOU SHOULD LEAVE IT THAT WE MUCH PREFER SUSPENSION SINE DIE GIVEN RECENT AND PROMISING DEVELOPMENT OF SYG'S POSITIVE RESPONSE TO EGYPTIAN INITIATIVE FOR VISIT TO AREA.

4. RECALLING EGYPTIAN PERMREP MEGUID TOLD AMBASSADOR BENNETT JULY 16 THAT EGYPT WAS THINKING OF SOME SC REFERENCE TO RIGHTS OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND TO JARRING MEMORANDUM, YOU SHOULD STATE THAT THIS APPROACH WOULD LEAD SC INTO CONTENTIOUS DISCUSSION OF SUBSTANCE OF MATTER WHICH WOULD BE PARTICULARLY UNHELPFUL AT THIS JUNCTURE, AND IF BROUGHT TO VOTE WOULD FORCE US TO VETO. ACCORDINGLY, EGYPT HAS CLEAR CHOICE BETWEEN HAVING US ASSOCIATED WITH POTENTIALLY CONSTRUCTIVE AND FORWARD-LOOKING OUTCOME OR OPPOSED TO AN UNREALISTIC AND ESSENTIALLY RETROSPECTIVE RESULT. THIS REGARD YOU SHOULD REITERATE BENNETT'S USEFUL OBSERVATIONS TO MEGUID THAT US IS MOST INTERESTED IN REALISTIC STEPS FORWARD, EVEN SMALL ONES, IF THEY ARE POSITIVE AND MEAN PROGRESS, AND THAT SC SHOULD AVOID WORDS FOR SAKE OF WORDS WHICH WE BOTH KNOW FROM EXPERIENCE ARE LIKELY TO MAR FUTURE HOPES. WE BELIEVE EVEN A CONSENSUS STATEMENT AND PARTICULARLY A RESOLUTION ACCEPTABLE TO ALL WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO DEVELOP. NO MATTER HOW DESIROUS ALL PARTIES ARE FOR PROGRESS AND LOW-KEY DEBATE, ONCE DEBATE STARTS IT OFTEN IMPOSSIBLE TO KEEP UNDER CONTROL.

5. YOU SHOULD EMPHASIZE TO ZAYYAT THAT OUR CENTRAL PROBLEM WITH JARRING MEMORANDUM IS IT HAS BECOME IMPEDIMENT TO PROGRESS IN RESOLVING MIDDLE EAST DISPUTE AND THAT FOR SC TO CITE THAT MEMORANDUM NOW WOULD ONLY FURTHER IMPEDE PROSPECTS AT VERY TIME WHEN EGYPTIAN INITIATIVE WITH SYG OFFERS AT LEAST GLIMMER OF PROGRESS. WITH REGARD TO MEGUID'S STATEMENT TO BENNETT ABOUT EGYPT NOT WISHING TO

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 140795

CHOOSE BETWEEN ACQUIESCING IN LOSS OF TERRITORY AND AN AMERICAN VETO, YOU SHOULD INDICATE WE NOT URGING EITHER SIDE TO SUPPORT SC ACTION THAT PREJUDGES THEIR RESPECTIVE POSITION ON TERRITORY OR OTHER ELEMENTS OF SC RES 242. OUR POSITION IS PERFECTLY CLEAR IN THIS REGARD AND WAS REITERATED IN SC THIS JUNE 14, NAMELY THAT RES 242 "NEITHER ENDORSES NOR PRECLUDES THE ARMISTICE LINES WHICH EXISTED ..."

6. YOU SHOULD CONCLUDE THAT US DOES NOT WANT TO BE CORNERED INTO HAVING TO VETO AND WOULD MUCH PREFER TO AVOID

CONFRONTATION AND TO COOPERATE WITH PARTIES AND SYG TO MOVE TOWARD A PRACTICAL SETTLEMENT. YOU CAN AGAIN REITERATE KIND OF TWO SENTENCE CONSENSUS STATEMENT WE HAVE IN MIND. YOU SHOULD ALSO TELL ZAYYAT THAT UNANIMOUS SC SUPPORT FOR SYG TRIP "GIVES SOMETHING TO EGYPTIANS TO TAKE HOME" TO SHOW -- IF THIS IS THEIR OBJECTIVE -- THAT SOME NEW UN INVOLVEMENT IS UNDER WAY. IF ZAYYAT ARGUES -- AS HE HAS -- THAT EGYPT UNDER PRESSURE TO SHOW SOMETHING GOING ON, SC ENDORSEMENT OF SYG TRIP BY CONSENSUS IS MORE THAN ENOUGH.

7. AS TO MEGUID'S SUGGESTION TO BENNETT THAT EGYPTIAN AND US DELEGATIONS CONSULT FULLY IN EFFORT TO WORK OUT ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION TO OUR CURRENT MUTUAL CONCERNS WHICH WILL CONTRIBUTE TO PEACE AND STABILITY IN AREA, WE ARE READY IF THIS RELATES TO CONSENSUS. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT WISH TO GET INVOLVED WITH EGYPTIANS ON NEGOTIATING A RESOLUTION.

8. YOU MAY ALSO CONVEY ABOVE TO SYG AND OTHERS IF YOU JUDGE IT WOULD BE HELPFUL. RUSH

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